

## Abstract

The invention relates to an airbag apparatus, with an airbag module and at least one covering device, behind which, in a closing position, an airbag expanding by gas inflation is accommodated and which, to release the expansion of the airbag, can be moved out of the closing position into an open position by means of a mechanism, the mechanism containing a first mechanism component, which is coupled firmly to the airbag module, and a second mechanism component, which is coupled firmly to the covering device, and the airbag module forming, together with the first mechanism component, a unit ready for installation. The invention relates, furthermore, to a mounting method for such an airbag apparatus, the mechanism containing a first mechanism component which is coupled firmly to the airbag module, so that the airbag module forms, together with the first mechanism component, a unit ready for installation, and containing a second mechanism component which is coupled firmly to the covering device, and, during or after the installation of the airbag apparatus behind a vehicle interior trim panel, the first mechanism component being brought into an active position with respect to the second mechanism component. The invention relates, further, to an operating method for such an airbag apparatus, the first mechanism component and the second mechanism component being coupled actively to one another only by means of a release of the airbag apparatus.